

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

Purpose

The Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Education competitive grants program promotes and strengthens the ability of America's HSIs to develop and conduct educational initiatives that attract outstanding students and produce graduates capable of enhancing the nation's scientific and professional workforce in the food and agricultural sciences.

Projects involve individual institutions, consortia of HSIs, or cooperative initiatives between two or more institutions or with other colleges and universities, units of government, or the private sector.

This grant program is authorized by section 815 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996.

Awards

Each year HSIs can receive up to two grants as lead institution on a regular project (up to \$200,000) or a joint project (up to \$300,000).

There is no limit to the number of grants HSIs can be involved with as collaborators. Collaborators contribute to the quality of the project and could be HSIs or non-HSI agencies, organizations, or institutions. Award duration is 2 to 3 years.



Who May Apply

Accredited 2-year and 4-year public or nonprofit Hispanic-Serving Institutions are eligible. HSIs are defined as institutions where at least 25 percent of the full-time-enrolled students are Hispanic, and at least 50 percent of these students are low-income.

Contact Information

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Impacts

This program strengthened human capital development in food and agricultural sciences by:

- developing, strengthening, and updating academic curriculums in the food and agricultural sciences;
- meeting local educational needs in agriculture and coordinating efforts with other institutions and with private industry;
- building cooperative linkages with state and local USDA agencies;
- improving instructional scientific equipment available to students to ensure a well-qualified labor force that meets industry standards and supports the Nation's food and fiber system;
- assisting USDA to recruit and retain underrepresented students and increase diversity in the food and agricultural sciences;
- building institutional capacity at HSI community colleges and HSI 4-year institutions.

Program Priorities

- enhancing and increasing economic opportunities for agricultural producers;
- improving the quality of life in rural America;
- enhancing protection and safety of the nation's agricultural and food supply;
- improving the nation's nutrition and health status;
- protecting and enhancing the nation's natural resource base and environment.

Areas of Support

Projects should focus on one or more of the following targeted areas:

- faculty preparation and teaching enhancement;
- instruction delivery systems;
- scientific instrumentation for teaching;
- student experimental learning;
- student recruitment and retention (including financial assistance);
- curriculum design and materials development.

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